

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26867 291034Z

12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05 /089 W

----- 048609

R 290944Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6094

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 26867

PASS OPIC AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, TH

SUBJECT: FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

IN NATURAL RESOURCES

REF: BANGKOK 26355

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE "BANGKOK POST" PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 25, FINANCE MINISTER BUNCHU ROTCHANASATHIAN TOOK A FIRM LINE ON THE BILLITON MINING CONTRACT, NOW UNDER FIRE FROM PRESSURE GROUPS AND OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIANS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BACK AWAY FROM THE CONTRACT TO THE DUTCH FIRM TO MINE THE FORMER TEMCO CONCESSIONS DESPITE THE IURRENT OPPOSITION. BUNCHU IS QUOTED AS SAYING QTE THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TOLD ME THAT HE WILL STAND FIRM ON THIS MATTER SINCE THE FUTURE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY DEPENDS ON WHAT ACTION THE GOVERNMENT TAKES IN THIS BUSINESS.
END QTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 26867 291034Z

2. BUNCHU PLACED THE TIN CONTRACT IN THE LARGER CONTEXT

OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. WHERE FOREIGN INVESTORS CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN TECHNOLOGY OR CAPITAL, THAILAND IS READY TO ALLOW FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MINING. IN THAT ITNNECTION, HE MENTIONED APPROVAL OF THE THAI ZINC PROJECT.

3. COMMENT: IN GRANTING THE CONTRACT TO BILLITON TO MINE ORE ON THE FORMER TEMCO CONCESSIONS, THE GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE FLAK FROM THE ACTIVIST PRESSURE GROUPS. THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND REALIZED THAT RESOLUTION OF THE TEMCO MATTER WAS IMPERATIVE. IT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF BEING DETERRED BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.
MASTERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, MINING CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO26867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0762
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975129/aaaaahkd.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 26355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN NATURAL RESOURCES
TAGS: EMIN, TH, NL, BILLITON, (BUNCHU ROTCHANASATHIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006